

## San Juan County Redistricting Committee

### Minutes 23 May 2011

Members present: Allen Rosenberg, David Bayley, Carl Bender, Barbara Bentley, Doug Pearson,  
Absent: Noel Monin

Chairperson Allen Rosenberg opened the meeting at 8:35 am and presented a version of the minutes from our first meeting. Minutes were approved as written.

**Future minutes.** The committee discussed the type of minutes to be maintained by the committee and agreed that an abridged outline of topics discussed would be appropriate for most meetings. As formal decisions get made, these will be presented in more detail.

**Web page.** Allen suggested that the instruction sheet provided to the Committee be posted on the County / Committee web page. All agreed.

#### Policies

- **History.** David gave a brief history of the creation of the original districts by the Freeholders group when the County adopted the Council structure. No formal policies were discussed or adopted at that time. Precincts were used as population boundaries.
- **Boundary lines.** Future boundaries must be based on "census blocks" as defined for the 2010 federal census.
- **Island-based subcommittees.** The sentiment of the group was to acknowledge and capitalize on local expertise from each island/district representative, but to have the committee function with a county-wide perspective.
- **Soliciting input.** Input from residents is an important source of perspectives and should be actively sought and encouraged.

#### First approximation

Barbara presented graphs of population per district based on discussions that she and Doug had after the first meeting. The graphs stimulated a good discussion, including ideas about what is "ideal" and how much a district might differ from the "ideal". Discussion also included how we might want to approach the high-density areas of Friday Harbor and Eastsound.

#### Sequence and Next Steps - Outreach

- Each committee member is encouraged to meet with their Council representative in the not-too-distant future
- In anticipation of meeting with interested residents, the committee will prepare a press release to be distributed to both print and electronic media, explaining the purposes and processes of redistricting in the County.
- The committee will schedule meetings at each of the ferry-served islands, with notification to the "outer islands" in each district.

The next meeting of the Committee will be June 12 at 10:30 in the County meeting room at Orcas Landing.

The meeting closed at 11:00 am.

Respectfully

Barbara Bentley